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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

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Follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/212 of 17 December 1985, in which it invited Governments to observe annually, on 5 December, an International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 52/17 of 20 November 1997, in which it proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, and its resolution 55/57 of 4 December 2000 on the observance of the International Year of Volunteers,

Recalling further and reaffirming its resolution 56/38 of 5 December 2001, which lays down recommendations for ways in which Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of volunteering, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic

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participation, to economic and social development, benefiting society at large, communities and the individual volunteer,

Recognizing also that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and management and social integration and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Recognizing further that volunteering, particularly at the community level, will help achieve the development goals and objectives set in the Millennium Declaration[1] and in other major United Nations conferences, summits, special sessions and their follow-up meetings,

Noting with appreciation the efforts to increase awareness of volunteerism through global information sharing and education, including efforts to develop an effective network for volunteers through, inter alia, the International Year of Volunteers web site and linked national sites,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to supporting volunteering, including the work of United Nations volunteers around the world,

Bearing in mind the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome and follow-up of the International Year of Volunteers, 2001;[2]

2. *Welcomes also* the successful observance of the International Year of Volunteers, 2001, with the support of one hundred twenty-three national International Year of Volunteers committees and the many regional and city International Year of Volunteers committees with broad representation from Governments, international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector, recognizes the contribution of States and civil society organizations and alliances at the international, regional, national and local levels to such a success, and encourages this network to be maintained and expanded, as appropriate, with a view to further engaging all stakeholders, undertaking volunteer-related research, disseminating information and experiences, providing preparation and training to volunteers, particularly from developing countries, and forging new partnerships at all levels;

3. *Welcomes further* the various developments of policies and the enactment of legislations for the growth and development of volunteerism taken up as a result of the international year, and recommends that Governments continue to acknowledge the valuable role of volunteers and further support voluntary activities, including through appropriate policies and enabling legislation;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to implement further the recommendations contained in the annex to its resolution 56/38, bearing in mind the economic significance of volunteering;

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] A/57/352.

5. *Calls upon* Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, to observe 5 December, International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, and to include activities focused on follow-up on the achievements of the International Year of Volunteers in its public awareness-raising campaigns;

6. *Reaffirms* the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism as an issue that involves and benefits all segments of society, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and immigrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

7. *Invites* all stakeholders, especially from the private sector community and from private foundations, to support volunteerism as a strategic tool to enhance economic and social development, including by expanding corporate volunteering;

8. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers, as the focal point for the International Year of Volunteers, as well as its role in the preparations and implementation of the Year, and requests it to continue its efforts, together with other stakeholders, to raise awareness of volunteerism, increase reference and networking resources available and provide technical cooperation to developing countries, upon their request, in the field of volunteerism;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers to develop a global internet volunteer resource based on the International Year of Volunteers web site[3] and on national web sites with a view to enhancing network capabilities and to expanding information, knowledge and resource management, and encourages Governments and all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute on a voluntary basis to this initiative;

10. *Calls for* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, and encourages the recognition and inclusion of volunteer contributions in future United Nations and other relevant international conferences, such as the World Summit on the Information Society;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to factor such contributions made by volunteers in his reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration[1] and of other major United Nations conferences, summits, special sessions and their follow-up meetings;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take measures, in particular within the mandates and the existing resources of the United Nations Volunteers and the Department of Public Information, to ensure that the potential of the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development in follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers is fully realized;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the current resolution, under the agenda item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

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[3] http://www.iyv2001.org.